

## **SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

This SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is entered into as of November 21, 2008 by and between the California Corporations Commissioner ("Commissioner"), on the one hand, and Lad Raymond Wentzel ("Wentzel") dba Check-Mate ("Check-Mate") on the other hand, (hereinafter collectively "the Parties").

### **RECITALS**

This Agreement is made with reference to the following facts:

- A. Wentzel is an individual doing business as Check-Mate in the State of California. Check-Mate has its principal place of business located at 920 Oak Lane, Rio Linda, CA 95673.
- B. Check-Mate holds license number 100-0924 from the Commissioner under the California Deferred Deposit Transaction Law ("CDDTL") pursuant to California Financial Code sections 23005, 23008 and 23009.
- D. On July 17, 2008, the Commissioner issued Citations and a Desist and Refrain Order (the "Order") to Check-Mate for violations of California Financial Code, a copy of which is attached and incorporated herein as Exhibit "1." Check-Mate was served with the Order on or about July 21, 2008.
- E. It is the intention and desire of the parties to resolve this matter without the necessity of a hearing and/or other litigation.

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, and the terms and conditions set forth herein, the parties agree as follows:

### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

1. Purpose. The purpose of this Agreement is to settle and resolve the matters between the parties hereto, for judicial economy and expediency, and to avoid the expense of a hearing, and possible further court proceedings.
2. Waiver of Hearing Rights. Check-Mate acknowledge the right of Check-Mate to a hearing under the CDDTL in connection with the Order and hereby waive that right to a hearing, and to any reconsideration, appeal, or other right to review which may be afforded pursuant to the CDDTL, the California Administrative Procedure Act, the California Code of Civil Procedure, or any other provision of law, and by waiving such rights, consent to the Order becoming final.
3. Advice of Counsel. Wentzel further acknowledges that he was advised to consult with counsel prior to entering into this Settlement Agreement and has decided not to consult with counsel.

4. Admissions. Check-Mate admits the findings contained in the Order. The admissions of Check-Mate are solely for the limited purposes of this proceeding.

5. Citations: Check-Mate hereby agrees to pay to the Commissioner citations totaling TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,500) (the "Citation"). Check-Mate shall pay the Citations by way of 10 equal installment payments of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250) on or before the first day of each month to commence on January 1, 2009. In the event the payment due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the payment shall be due the next business day. Check-Mate shall make the checks for the payments payable to the California Department of Corporations and mail the checks to the attention and address of the Department of Corporations person listed in paragraph 19. Notices.

6. Future Actions by the Commissioner. The Commissioner reserves the right to bring any future action(s) against Check-Mate, Wentzel or any of the employees of Check-Mate for any and all unknown or future violations of the CDDTL. This Agreement shall not serve to exculpate Check-Mate, Wentzel or any of the employees of Check-Mate from liability for any and all unknown or future violations of the CDDTL.

7. Effective Date. This Agreement shall not become effective until signed, and delivered by all parties.

8. Settlement Agreement Coverage. The parties hereby acknowledge and agree that this Agreement is intended to constitute a full, final and complete resolution of this matter. The parties further acknowledge and agree that nothing contained in this Agreement shall operate to limit the Commissioner's ability to assist any other agency, (county, state or federal) with any prosecution, administrative, civil or criminal, brought by any such agency against Check-Mate based upon any of the activities alleged in this matter or otherwise.

9. Independent Legal Advice. Each of the Parties represents, warrants, and agrees that it has received or been advised to seek independent legal advice from its attorneys with respect to the advisability of executing this Agreement.

10. No Other Representation. Each of the parties represents, warrants, and agrees that in executing this Agreement it has relied solely on the statements set forth herein and the advice of its own counsel. Each of the parties further represents, warrants, and agrees that in executing this Agreement it has placed no reliance on any statement, representation, or promise of any other party, or any other person or entity not expressly set forth herein, or upon the failure of any party or any other person or entity to make any statement, representation or disclosure of anything whatsoever. The parties have included this clause: (1) to preclude any claim that any party was in any way fraudulently induced to execute this Agreement; and (2) to preclude the introduction of parol evidence to vary, interpret, supplement, or contradict the terms of this Agreement.

11. Modifications and Qualified Integration. No amendment, change or modification of this Agreement shall be valid or binding to any extent unless it is in writing and signed by all of the parties affected by it.

12. Full Integration. This Agreement, including the attached Order, is the final written expression and the complete and exclusive statement of all the agreements, conditions, promises, representations, and covenants between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, and supercedes all prior or contemporaneous agreements, negotiations, representations, understandings, and discussions between and among the parties, their respective representatives, and any other person or entity, with respect to the subject matter covered hereby.

13. No Presumption From Drafting. In that the parties have had the opportunity to draft, review and edit the language of this Agreement, no presumption for or against any party arising out of drafting all or any part of this Agreement will be applied in any action relating to, connected to, or involving this Settlement Agreement. Accordingly, the parties waive the benefit of California Civil Code section 1654 and any successor or amended statute, providing that in cases of uncertainty, language of a contract should be interpreted most strongly against the party who caused the uncertainty to exist.

14. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counter-parts by the Parties, and when each Party has signed and delivered at least one such counterpart to the other Party, each counterpart shall be deemed an original and taken together shall constitute one and the same Agreement.

15. Headings and Governing Law. The headings to the paragraphs of this Agreement are inserted for convenience only and will not be deemed a part hereof or affect the construction or interpretation of the provisions hereof. This Agreement shall be construed and enforced in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the State of California.

16. Authority For Settlement. Each Party warrants and represents that such Party is fully entitled and duly authorized to enter into and deliver this Agreement. In particular, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, each Party warrants and represents that it is fully entitled to enter into the covenants, and undertake the obligations set forth herein.

17. Public Record. Check-Mate hereby acknowledge that this Agreement will be a matter of public record.

18. Voluntary Agreement. The Parties each represent and acknowledge that he, she or it is executing this Agreement completely voluntarily and without any duress or undue influence of any kind from any source.

19. Notices. Notice shall be provided to each party at the following addresses:

If to Check-Mate                      920 Oak Lane  
Rio Linda, CA 95673  
Attn: Lad Raymond Wentzel

If to the Commissioner to:        Steven C. Thompson  
Special Administrator  
Financial Services Division  
Department of Corporations  
320 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 750  
Los Angeles, CA 90013-2344

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have approved and executed this Agreement on the dates set forth opposite their respective signatures.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_                      PRESTON DuFAUCHARD  
California Corporations Commissioner

By \_\_\_\_\_  
STEVEN C. THOMPSON  
Special Administrator

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_                      By \_\_\_\_\_  
LAD RAYMOND WENTZEL DBA  
CHECK-MATE

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_                      By \_\_\_\_\_  
LAD RAYMOND WENTZEL